

OAKS CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Oaks Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Houston, Texas, a congregationally governed body, in order to promote the work of the church in the spirit of Christ and thus advance His Kingdom, do hereby adopt this Constitution.

ARTICLE I: NAME

The legal corporate name of this church is Oaks Christian Church of Houston, Texas (the "Church"). The Church is affiliated with the denomination known as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and committed to the historic principles of this body known as Christian Church or Disciples of Christ. This church shall hereafter and commonly be referred to as Oaks Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

ARTICLE II: COVENANT

Our mission as Oaks Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is to share God's love with all people by walking together living the Good News of Jesus Christ in our lives.

Our purpose as a congregation is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ through worship, teaching, fellowship, prayer, service, and through the open invitation to all believers to join us at Christ's table.

In covenant with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and with the universal community of Christians; we will work, pray and trust in the ultimate union of the Body of Christ.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section A. Qualification

The membership of this congregation shall consist of those who are now identified as members; those who make a public confession of faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and if not previously baptized unite by baptism; those who transfer membership; and those who place associate membership.

Section B. Voting

Voting privileges shall be accorded to all Members who are sixteen (16) years of age or older. There shall be no voting by proxy.

Section C. Approval

1. The following matters shall require 2/3 majority of votes cast in a congregational meeting called in accordance with this constitution:
 - a. Call of a Senior Minister
 - b. Release of a Senior Minister
 - c. Amendments to the Constitution (Article VIII)
2. The following matters shall require a simple majority:
 - a. Adoption of a budget
 - b. Election of Officers and general Board members

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

Section A. Officers

1. At the annual business meeting, the congregation will elect from its members: Elders, Deacons, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Clerk, and Ministry Team Chairmen, for the terms to be designated in the By-Laws as well as Endowment fund(s) Trustees for the terms and the number of Trustees as is designated in the Endowment fund(s) policy.
2. No officer of the Church, after having served on the General Board for three (3) consecutive years may hold any office in the Church that would permit a fourth year of consecutive service as a voting member of the General Board. After a one year period has elapsed from the expiration of three (3) years of service on the General Board, then an officer may again be elected to serve.

Section B. Election of Officers

1. A nominating committee composed of: one (1) Elder, one (1) Deacon, two (2) members of the General Board and three (3) members of the congregation who are not currently members of the General Board shall be appointed by the Chairman, approved by the General Board and announced to the congregation at least six (6) weeks prior to the annual business meeting to nominate candidates for officers of the Church. The committee shall perform its duties in consultation with the Senior Minister.
2. The recommended slate shall be presented for election at the annual business meeting of the congregation. Nominations from the floor will be received. Those who receive a majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected. In the event there are any nominations from the floor the vote shall be by secret ballot.
3. Vacancies in any office of the Church shall be filled for the un-expired term by nomination of the Chairman of the General Board in consultation with the Senior Minister and approved by the General Board.

Section C. The General Board

1. The General Board shall consist of the following officers, each of whom shall have a vote:
 - a. Chairman
 - b. Vice Chairman
 - c. Secretary
 - d. Treasurer
 - e. Elder Chairman or Representative as elected by his/her fellow Elders at the annual Elders organizational meeting.
 - f. Deacon Chairman or Representative as elected by their fellow Deacons at the annual Diaconate organizational meeting.
 - g. Financial Clerk
 - h. The Chairperson from each of the Ministry Teams as designated in the By-laws
2. The General Board shall operate as the Board of Directors of the Church with authority to manage the affairs of the Church except as limited by express provision to the contrary in the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, or By-Laws.

ARTICLE V: THE MINISTERS

Section A. Duties

The Senior Minister and Associate Ministers shall perform the duties which usually pertain to their position and as set forth in the job description and terms of employment as recorded in the minutes of the General Board. The Senior Minister and other Ministers, as spiritual leaders of the Church, shall be ex-officio non-voting members of all organized groups, auxiliaries and committees.

Section B. Selection or Termination of Senior Minister

1. A representative committee of five (5) shall serve as a pulpit committee. This committee will be composed of an Elder (elected by the Elders), 2 (two) Deacons (elected by the Deacons), and two (2) non-board members (elected by the congregation). The pulpit committee will select the committee chairman. This committee shall recommend the prospective minister to the General Board, which, in turn, if it approves such recommendation, shall offer the name to the congregation for final approval.
2. The recommendation of the General Board, acting through the pulpit committee, must be accepted by a two thirds (2/3) majority of members present and voting in a regular or special business meeting of the congregation, before a call may be extended. Notice of the meeting is to be given as stated in Article VI, Section B.

3. The term of the ministry shall be for an indefinite period and may be terminated by either party upon sixty (60) days written notice or less upon mutual agreement by the minister and a majority of the General Board. A written statement setting forth the salary to be paid and other conditions of the call shall be made in duplicate, one (1) copy for the minister and one (1) for the church.
4. The termination of this ministry may be recommended to the congregation by the General Board upon a majority vote of those board members present and voting in either a regular or special board meeting, provided all board members have been given at least two (2) weeks written notice to the effect that this vote will be taken. The recommendation of the General Board shall be referred to the congregation for the final action by a 2/3 majority vote within fifteen (15) days.

Section C. Selection, Employment and/or Termination of Associate-Ministers and Other Church Staff

Employment and/or termination of associate ministers, and other members of the church staff shall be the responsibility of the General Board, in consultation with the Senior Minister and shall be performed in accordance with the procedure set forth in the By-Laws of the Church.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

Section A. Meetings to be Held

1. An annual business meeting of the congregation during the month of November.
2. Special meetings will be called as follows:
 - a. At the Chairman's discretion,
 - b. Upon the request of the General Board,
 - c. Upon written petition of ten (10) percent of the membership.

Section B. Notice

Notice of all regular or special business meetings of the congregation shall be given during the regular services on two (2) Sundays immediately prior to the meeting, and for meetings for which less delay is required, written notice must be sent to every member five (5) days prior to such meeting.

Section C. Rules of Order

The rules contained in the current version *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern this society in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution and in any special rules of order that this society may adopt. The General Board shall select a parliamentarian at its first meeting of each church year to serve that year.

ARTICLE VII: DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of the Church, all properties, both real and personal, shall revert to the parent body of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), i.e., the Coastal Plains Area of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest or its legal successor. Removal of this church from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) shall be construed as automatic dissolution.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any business meeting of the Church by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting on the amendment, provided written notice of the proposed amendment has been sent to the members of the Church, and that the proposed amendment has been read, or posted, at services on two (2) Sundays immediately prior to the meeting at which the vote is to be taken.

Revised as of: March 9, 2004